



ComReg proposes cuts in LLU line share price

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published a consultation on the pricing of Local Loop Unbundling (LLU) line share. If ComReg decides to implement its proposal without amendment, it will mean a drop in the price of line share from €9.00 to €0.39c.

LLU line share is an important product that allows telecoms operators to provide broadband services to customers who currently have telephone lines and want to have broadband also. The line share cost is the amount operators are charged by eircom for the use of the customer's line for the broadband service. The use of LLU line share has underpinned the roll-out of broadband in some other EU countries.

Chairperson John Doherty said: "The price of line share can be a key element of LLU and broadband roll-out. This price review forms part of an ongoing comprehensive review of the LLU product and processes by ComReg. We believe that the proposed changes can help to re-energise the LLU market. It will also stimulate the further roll-out of Broadband to the benefit of the consumer."

The full paper consultation paper – ComReg 04/111 – is available on the ComReg website www.comreg.ie. Responses to the consultation are due by the 3rd of December 2004.

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Editor's note

The Line Sharing Product is used to allow other operators to rent the broadband capacity on a local loop from eircom without taking control of the entire line. It makes it possible for an operator to unbundle the local loop with the objective of providing broadband services only while leaving the provision of voice services to eircom. It is therefore possible for two operators to provide two services (broadband and voice) over the same line simultaneously. This contrasts with full unbundling, where the operator takes control of the entire line, including the voice element.